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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Patrick M. BROWN *et al.*

CONFIRMATION NO: 4701

SERIAL NO.: 10/047,440

FILED: 14 JANUARY 2002

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING NIOBIUM AND TANTALUM COMPOUNDS

BOX MISSING PARTS  
The Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend page one by inserting the following sentence as the first sentence of the specification immediately following the Title.

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--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

al 08/542,286, filed 12 October 1995, now U.S Patent No. 6,338,832 B1.--

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

I hereby certify this paper (along with any document or paper referred to herein) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date **14 August 2002** in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number **EL 886 078 151 US** addressed to the: Box Missing Parts, The Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231.

Ellen Ringland

Name of person mailing paper

*Ellen Ringland*

Signature of person mailing paper

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the submissions made herein, the undersigned attorney would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha Ann Finnegan, Reg. No. 31,453  
Attorney for Applicant

Date: 14 August 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In accordance with 37CFR 1.121(b), the amendments made to the Specification are detailed below (additions underlined; deletions [bracketed]).

**Please amend page one of the specification by replacing the first sentence of the specification immediately following the Title with the following:**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/542,286, filed 12 October 1995, now U.S Patent No. 6,338,832 B1.